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THE IMPACTS OF CAPITALISM AS REFLECTED IN THREE PLAYS BY WALTER WYKES: FAMILY 2.0, THE WORKER AND THE PROFESSION: A MARXIST STUDY

THESIS



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ABSTRAK

Dalam skripsi ini, penulis membahas tentang dampak-dampak kapitalisme dalam kehidupan modern sebagaimana terefleksi pada drama-drama Walter Wykes, *Family 2.0*, *the Worker* dan *the Profession*. Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk menggambarkan bentuk dari dampak-dampak kapitalisme dalam kehidupan modern sebagaimana terefleksi pada drama yang pada umumnya bersifat absurd tersebut. Dalam penelitian ini, data dikumpulkan melalui penelitian kepustakaan. Data utama di ambil dari drama *Family 2.0*, *the Worker* dan *the profession*. Dan data sekunder diambil dari buku-buku, artikel, dan jurnal yang berkaitan dengan topic penelitian. Selanjutnya dalam penelitian ini, penulis menggunakan pendekatan mimetik, dimana analisa lebih di fokuskan tidak hanya karya sastra itu sendiri, tetapi juga menyinggung sedikit tentang keadaan masyarakat di Amerika Serikat.

Dari penelitian ini ditemukan beberapa bentuk dampak-dampak kapitalisme dalam kehidupan modern sebagaimana terefleksi pada drama-drama Walter Wykes, *Family 2.0*, *the Worker* dan *the profession* diantaranya 1, *Individualism*, terefleksi pada karakter first husband pada drama *Family 2.0* dan karakter man pada drama *the Worker*, 2, *Materialism*, terefleksi pada karakter son dan daughter dalam drama *Family 2.0* dan karakter Man pada drama *the Worker*, 3, *Monotonous Life and Boring Routine*, terefleksi pada karakter Wife dalam drama *Family 2.0*, karakter woman pada drama *the Worker* dan karakter of Eugene dalam drama *the Profession*. Dari keseluruhan data yang di analisis, dapat di ambil suatu kesimpulan bahwa sebenarnya Walter Wykes ingin mengingatkan masyarakat bahwa mereka saat ini sedang hidup dalam kondisi dan era yang absurd karena drama-dramanya yang bersifat absurd ini merefleksikan masalah-masalah dalam masyarakat.

Key Word: Marxism, Capitalism, Socioeconomic Issues, Individualism, Monotonous life, Absurd



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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Study

In literature, we learn about the important aspect of human life, no matter what kind and genre the literary work they are. Everyone can express their critique and thought through literary work, it can be in form of novel, short story, poem, or plays. As long as the works have quality, there always be a place and guarantee that the work will existing and be accepted by society. Walter Wykes, an American playwright show that his contemporary plays which contained of issues about socioeconomic condition in America were accepted by society.

As states in *imagi-nation.com*, Walter Wykes was born on October 30, 1969; he is not only an American playwright but also an actor. He was graduated from MFA playwriting program at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He produced thirty plays across the United States and international. He also received four American College Theatre Festival's Award for Excellence Playwriting. In writing a play, he often writes about life, socioeconomic issue, and absurdity.

In every Wykes works, we can see that he always conducts his idea and critique through vulgar word that sharply criticizes capitalism in America; he usually added comedy to make his work more interesting. Moreover, a short and efficiency time in play is also another characteristic of Walter Wykes in conducting his work. Therefore, the spectator and audience wouldn't feel boring

1.2 Identification of the Problem

The main problem of this research is to find out the impact of capitalism in society as reflected in three plays of Walter Wykes. The writer assumed that the issues of socioeconomic condition and capitalism are implied on these plays. Here, the playwright challenges the Capitalism. The writer believes that issues are implied through characters, theme, plot and setting of the plays. Even though the plays have its own specification, but these entire plays have the similar theme, to challenge capitalism.

1.3 Scope of the Study

Marxist is a wide study which is not only focus on literature but also in other aspects of social life such as political, cultural, music, art, and others. The scope of the research is important to make a clear analysis to specific topic of the research. The writers found several points that will be analyzed in this research and made a limitation into several question:

1. What is the impact of capitalism which reflected in play *Family 2.0*, *the Worker* and *the Profession* by Walter Wykes?
2. How do the play *Family 2.0*, *The Worker* and *the Profession* by Walter Wykes criticize capitalism?

1.4 Objective of the Study

The aim of this research is to describe and analyze the impact of capitalism as reflected in play *Family 2.0*, *The Worker* and *the Profession* by Walter Wykes. In this research, the writer assumes that the issues of socioeconomic condition appears in the play *Family 2.0*, *The Worker* and *the Profession* by Walter Wykes. Furthermore, the writer assumes that Walter Wykes tries to critique the system of capitalism.

1.5 Review of Previous Study

In the previous study, the writer can claimed as the first one that research about Walter Wykes plays because the writer did not found any researchers who analyze the plays of Walter Wykes before. But here, the writer found several researchers that discussed and applied Marxist theory in literary work.

In term of Marxist theory Enda Eko Citra wrote a thesis Entitle *the Economic Domination of Bougeois over Proletariat as reflected in Thomas Hardy's Tess of the D'urbervilles*. He focused to the economic domination of bourgeois over proletariat. In this case, he applied Reflection theory that is purposed by George Lukacs. He analyze that the aim of Lukacs theory is to reveal the destriment and contradictions in the society caused by the domination of capitalist through the literary work. By using George Lukacs theory, he tries to investigate the domination of bourgeois over proletariat as reflected in the novel *Tess of the D'urbervilles*. (2009)

The writer also found M. Keith Booker in his research entitled "*Late Capitalism Comes to Dublin: 'American' Popular Culture in the Novels of Roddy Doyle*". He argues that "American popular culture" is really involved the popular culture of multinational capitalism. Multinational capital, meanwhile, is a complex hydra-headed beast that knows no particular loyalty to any one nation. He concluded that American popular culture is inspired from the way of late capitalism in Dublin but package in another form, adjusted with new era and needed of market. This way is proved succeeded where capitalist America has power in market around the world and all of that inspired from the late of capitalism in Dublin. (1997).

Omar Lizardo in his journal entitles *Fight Club, or the Cultural Contradiction of Late Capitalism*, also discussed about capitalism in the film *Fight Club*. In that movie, he analyzed that *Fight Club* can therefore be interpreted as an inchoate attempt to produce some version of a class consciousness and cognitive mapping in the late-capitalist situation. Moreover, he presents that *Fight Club* very cultural and motivational support of the capitalist system is shown to be cracking, under the very same pressures that allow it to reproduce qua socio-economic structure. The radicalism of the solutions that are iterated throughout the movie (i.e. destroy body and the rules of co modified sociability of the service society; destroy the symbolic support of the system by developing a counter-ideology of self-effacement; destroy the structural support of the system by eliminating the institutional infrastructure of credit) form a triad. (2007)

The differences between two researchers are Enda Eko Citra focused on capitalism in bourgeois society and the struggle of proletarian in society especially during feudalism era. He tries to investigate domination bourgeois toward proletarian. On the other hand, M. Keith Booker focused on late capitalism in Dublin that inspires American popular culture. Capitalist America has market power around the world that inspired from the late of capitalism in Dublin. While Omar Lizardo focused on indication on motivational support capitalist through the Film Fight Club. While in this thesis is focused on impacts of capitalism that influence socioeconomic condition in the modern era where society leads to fulfill their desire for money and benefit without control.

1.6 Theoretical Framework

Marxist theory According to Louise A. Hitchcock is “a theory based on the ideas formulated by Marx and Hegel as critique of industrial capitalism” (15). Super structure, base structure, proletarian, social classes, bourgeoisies and others are the term that used in Marxist theory to identified the elements that related to economic condition and society. The main concept of Marxist theory especially in literary work is to see the connection between socioeconomic condition in a society influenced of literary work in society and determine character of society itself. Referring to literary work itself about capitalism in perspective Marxism; Lois Tyson in his book divided two possibilities of interest in Marxist critique they are:” 1) the literary work might tend to reinforce in the reader the ideologies it embodies, or 2) It might invite the reader to criticize the ideologies it embodies”

(66). In other word, literary text is divided into two categorizes the one which support capitalism and the one which challenge capitalism. Both of them can be found literary text. As the supporter of capitalism, literary work can be define as the work that have content or theme that reinforce the idea of capitalism and show us the preservation of social classes and status. It leads the reader into the acceptance of Marxist agenda to gain the economic power. While as the challenger of capitalism, literary work has the form and theme to invite the reader to criticize the situation of socio economic in society. It aims is to reveal about how the capitalism operates in a community and how far the impact of capitalism is reflected in literary work.

Socioeconomic issues can be seen in the theme, characters, setting, and other element of a literary work. Usually, Marxism ideological agenda will be revealed after we study about writer, socio economic condition happened, ideological that appears in literary work. At least, it will lead the reader to determine ideology that develops in society whether it is supporter the ideological of capitalist or challenge it.

1.7 Method of the Research

1.7.1 Collecting data

To conduct the research the writer applies Library research to collect the data. The primary data that are used to conduct the research are *Family 2.0*, *the Worker* and *the Profession* by Walter Wykes. All the dialogue, narration and setting in the plays are used by writer as data in this research.

1.7.2 Analyzing the data

In analyzing the data, the writer uses mimetic approach. The writer analyzes the intrinsic elements of the plays to help the writer understand about the plays. The analysis of writer is focused on the literary work itself and then the writer tried to describe the relation between the literary work and the situation of the universe.

1.7.3 Presenting the Result of the Analysis

The result is presented through descriptive way. Descriptive method is the method that used to explain about the phenomena that found in a literary work. In presenting the result of the analysis, the writer used a descriptive method where the research conducts to describe specifically about the relation between Marxist theory and plays by Walter Wykes, *Family 2.0*, *the Worker* and *the Profession*. The data preferred to be count into words rather than number, which describe the results of the research briefly.

CHAPTER II

PRELIMINARY ANALYSES

In this chapter the writer explain the elements of fiction of the plays. Here, the writer focuses on the characters, theme, plot, and setting of the plays by Walter Wykes entitled *Family 2.0.*, *the Worker* and *the Profession*. The main purpose of this chapter is to help the reader and the writer itself to understand the plays easily. The writer divides this chapter into four sub chapter.

Family 2.0

2.1.1 Character

Characters are the one of most important parts of intrinsic elements in fiction. Characters become an important aspect to develop the issue in the plays. By providing the dialogue through the characters, the reader can get the message of the plays easily. Characters are divided into several kinds, based on his role in the story; consist of major and minor characters. E. M Foster also introduces flat and round characters. Major characters are the primary character who takes the whole parts of the story; major character becomes the key of issue that appear in the story. Minor characters appear in some part of the story. In this section the writer assume that most character in the plays consider as the major characters.

Generally, the characters in this entire plays divided into static character and dynamic character. Based on Elizabeth McMahan and friends, "the term Static and Dynamic are used as labels to denote characters who do not change throughout the course of a work (static) and those whose experiences alter them

(dynamic)” (18). In these plays, most of the character categorized and define as static characters.

2.1.1.1 Husband

Husband is main characters in this play. Husband character considered as the major character because his appear once in the plays become the key issues of the play. And also, this character categorized as static character because from beginning until end, his roles in the plays doesn't change. He is a rich man who has a boring life. In this play, he tries to be a romantic man who brings flowers and recites poems to another person's wife because he never gets satisfied of his wife, as quotation from the dialogue below:...”Husband: She was a nag. A nag with no boobs. She had boobs until the baby was born, but he sucked them right off. I'm a boob man, so it was completely unworkable”. (Act 1)

He is also an ambitious man who thinks that he can get all what he want by using his own money. He even attempts to get another person wife to make him satisfied. In the beginning of the play he looks like a perfect man. He knows everything and promised to provided prosperity and pleasure to his neighbor family by giving money. Nonetheless when he got some trouble, he doesn't want to take responsibility, instead he escapes from the trouble.

2.1.1.2 Wife

Wife is a wife who always left by her husband. She feels boring in her life. She is considering as major character in this play. Her roles and dialogue in this play influence story of the play and became key issues of the play. In this play, she describe as a wife who always stay at home accompany with her children. She

is kind of static character of this play. She even easily changes the position of her husband by another man just because the man is richer than his husband, as quoted from dialogue below:

Wife: He's replacing you.

First husband: Replacing me?

Wife: That's right. He's in—you're out.

First husband: But why?!

Wife: He brought me flowers! When's the last time you brought me flowers?!

First husband: I—

Wife: Exactly. Now stop stuttering and hand over the key.

(Act 1)

From explanation above, we can see that she is a materialistic woman who only thinks and measures the happiness from the sex and property. She looks like didn't have satisfaction in her life after everything she has in life.

2.1.1.3 First Husband

First husband is a husband of the wife above. In this play, he also consider as the major character and static character, similar with another character before. Every day he works as an executive in the technology company, as quoted from dialogue below: .."Husband: He can have my life. Where does he work? Wife: He's an executive. At a Technology Company. (Act 1)

He is a workaholic man. He got high position in his company as explain above. Everyday he goes to work and earns a lot of money. He thinks that if he

can provide his family with enough money, his family will be happy. Unfortunately, since he just focuses on his work, he forgot that his wife and his family also need his affection and love. At the end of plays, his position is replaced and he shifts into a dog.

2.1.1.4 Son

Son is the first children from the first husband in plays *Family 2.0*. This character is categorized as the minor character and has the flat characters. He likes baseball. Everyday he just thinks about baseball, as quoted from dialogue below:

Husband: Do you like baseball?

Son: Sure.

Husband: I'll take you to the Big Game.

Son: The Big Game?! No way! [He embraces Husband.] I love you, Dad! (Act 1)

Just like his mother, he is also a materialistic boy who measure happiness from gadgets and property and never thinks about how to make his family become better. In his mind, he just thinks about baseball and big game.

2.1.1.5 Daughter

Daughter is the second child from first husband and wife. In this play, daughter character is a minor character and has the flat characters. In the play *Family 2.0*, she describe as teenager who love to shopping, as quote from dialogue below:

Husband: Do you like shopping?

Daughter: Duh.

Husband: Here—knock yourself out.

[He hands her a hundred dollar bill.]

Daughter: A hundred dollar bill?! You're the greatest!

[She kisses Husband on the cheek]

(Act 1)

From the dialogue above, we can conclude that daughter in play *Family 2.0* is a materialistic person. She is just thinking about how to get the money for shopping. This is depicted of American teenager in modern era.

2.1.2 Theme

Theme is another important element of fiction. According to Stanton, he states that “theme as that meaning of story which especially accounts of the largest number of its elements in the simplest way” (21). To simplify, we can say that theme is the general idea of the whole story. Through the theme the reader can get the main point of the whole story of novel, poetry and plays.

The theme of the play *Family 2.0* is tiredness and unfaithfulness in life. Tiredness is general feeling of human being after doing their activities. But in this play, it describes excessive of tiredness that it is not good for life. Indication of tiredness can be seen into husband character. His daily routine makes he feel so tired. Moreover, unfaithfulness, especially in a family is usually found in life. It can come from husband or wife and may be from children. Honesty is important in our lives in order to make balance and restful of life. When we life in this world, sometimes we got tiredness and unfaithful in facing trouble and problem.

But it should not make us give up and spiritless in life and should make us think do better for tomorrow.

2.1.3 Plot

As one of intrinsic element of fiction, plot has important role in building the story. In simple concept, plot is the sequence of event which constructs a literary work. Plot; refer to Klarer (2004) “is the logical interaction of the various thematic elements of a text which lead to a change of the original situation as presented at the outset of the narrative” (15). Plot is used to construct and tell the story to the reader. Klarer divides the traditional plot into several parts; exposition (introduction), complication, climax or turning point, and resolution. In other word, plot reveals the whole events that happen in literary work. It can be taken from the first problem of the person until it becomes climax, and then the problem is solved.

The play *family 2.0* begins when husband enter to the house. He looks and observes around that house and sees the properties and stuff in there, such as the lamp, sofa, photo, and so on. He looks so impressed of his house. Than, the wife was shock and confused because her house was attended by uninvited man. The husband explained the reason why he comes there. The wife so impressed with the husband especially when he brings flowers and reads a poem for the wife. The husband also success to persuade her children, son and daughter by promised them a bunch of money. Shortly, after the husband successes to

manipulate the wife and her children, he asks the wife to have intimate relationship. This part is a rising action of this play.

Complication includes the conflicts between characters, the conflicts lead to a crisis which then causes the story to reach the climax. It is stated by Klarer that complication or conflict produces suspense and eventually leads to a climax, crisis, or turning point (15). The writer found that climax in this play happen when the first husband comes to the house, he was so surprised and shock to see his wife is about to have sex with another man. He was so angry to his wife. Yet, the wife explained to her husband that she has replaced his position by her new husband since her husband never bring her a flower and read a poem to her. When the husband asks to his children, his children also prefer their new father. They argue that their new father is more capable and enable to bring them to watch big game of baseball and provide a large of money to goes to shopping and buy the new thing. All the member of the family ignores his father and prefers to choose the new husband for their mother. Even, they ask his father to act like the dog and threat him a slave.

After all the member of the family feel satisfied to threat their father as the dog and slave, they demand what the husband promised to them. The husband has to accompany the son to watch the big game. He also has to provide a bunch of money for the daughter. The wife also asks him to take care of the dog because she doesn't want to have that dog. But, the husband doesn't want to do that because his desires to have sex haven't been fulfilled yet. There are a large of push and pressed hard toward the husband. The wife, son, and daughter feel so

angry because all their demands are not fulfilled by husband. As the end of the plays, they turn back to attack the husband by using taboo language. They abuse the husband by their words. They screw up the husband and kick him out of their house.

2.1.4 Setting

Setting is also another important element of fiction in literary work. Setting is talk about time and place of a story. Setting, refer to Klarer denotes the location, historical period, and social surroundings in which the action of a text develops (24). The major setting plays *Family 2.0* is in the city in United State of America, precisely in a living room of a perfect looking house in a city, as quote from narration below :”... [A perfect-looking house—the kind you find in magazines. A perfect-looking WIFE puts the finishing touches on her perfect-looking living room. The front door opens and HUSBAND enters.]” (Act 1)

The property that used such as luxury sofa, head lamp, family album, they look perfect. The play set on present era therefore all gadget and stuff in modern style.

2.2 The Worker

2.2.1. Character

In the play *the Worker* the writer found three major characters:

2.2.1.1 Man

The man in this play is described as the workaholic person. In this play, he considers as the major character and categorized as static character because from beginning until end, his roles in the plays doesn't change. Every day, he

goes to work, and leaves his wife. Work has dominated his life. Even, he seems to ignore his responsibility as a husband and he is afraid to lose his job. This is the main character in this play. Even he takes out his work in the office into his house, as quote from narration below:

....A few moments later, a young man enters carrying an enormous stack of files and papers. He places this stack carefully in the middle of the room—then exits and returns with another stack. Again, he exits, this time returning with a briefcase and a computer. He repeats these steps, stumbling in and out of the apartment, until he has fashioned a gigantic mound in the middle of the room which includes a fax machine, two printers, a garbage can, a paper shredder, several trays of office supplies, (Act 1)

He doesn't allow his wife to have a baby because he is afraid that he can not focus on his work and that he got fired by his company. His leader and supervisor didn't allow the employee to spread the secret of the company and apply strict rules. In this play, the house is visited by the messenger because his wife without deliberately tells to a woman who she meet in grocery store the place her husband works. The company already knows that the man character spread company's secret.

2.2.1.2 Woman

The character of woman in this play is described as a lonely woman. She stays in the apartment and be accompanied by a baby doll because she doesn't have a baby or child. She is also the main character in this play and kind of static

character. Everyday she takes care her work in the house, such as cook a food in the kitchen, preparing all the stuff and provide the another thing which her husband need. She is trap into monotonous life. The woman character in this play is categorized as a submissive woman toward his husband, quoted from dialogue below:

... Man: Aren't you going to—

[The woman scurries into the room wearing an apron and oven mitts.

She kisses her husband dutifully on the cheek and scurries back towards the kitchen.]

(Act 1)

She always followed what her husband said and that's why she never got harsh by her husband. She is kind of a good woman and good wife. She always dreams to have a baby and child. That's why; she always takes the baby doll to accompany her in the apartment. Unfortunately, her jealousy to a woman whom she met in the grocery takes the disaster toward her his husband, this woman hates her husband, she told about her husband work and office to the woman. Than, that woman told to the company where the woman husband work and her his husband got fired.

2.2.1.3 The Messenger

The character messenger in this play is described as a person who sent a message from the company to inform that the employee will invite to the party and sent a gift cake from the company. This character categorized as the minor

character and kind of static character. The arrival of the messenger is been feared by the employee, because the arrival means they got fire. The messenger did not tolerate any kind of denial and ignorance by the employee, as we on see in the dialogue below:

The messenger: Chocolate, Vanilla, or strawberry?!!! [Pause] Look ... I'm just trying to do my job. I have to look out for myself, you know. It's nothing personal. [Pause] Chocolate, vanilla, or—

Man: It doesn't matter.

The Messenger: You have to choose.

Man: I don't care.

(Act 1)

The messenger just comes to the employee who are indicated have broken the rule, telling about their work means telling the secret of the company. The information about the employee is all in the messenger hand. No one can escape from the arrival of the messenger. Even categorized as the minor character yet, the existence of the messenger in this play has an important role.

2.2.2 Theme

The worker has a theme about a fear and anxious of people to lose of what they have and it is a kind of human nature. Here, man character feels so scare that he will get fired from his company. He thinks that he has worked hard to get his position in that company. The over fear makes their mind think hard to protect what they have. Moreover, they always keep someone's secret is

important point in this life. Because telling a secret of someone may be danger for them. It should be kept and may not be separated to another one.

2.2.3 Plot

These play begin with introduces a description of woman who sits in a living room, waiting for her husband back from the work while taking a baby doll. Than a man enter the room with a large of paper, printing machine, briefcase and computer, and all stuff from the office. His wife is surprised and thinks that his husband is fired from his office. But, the husband explains that he is so afraid, nervous, and worried that somebody knows about his work and his office. This is the complication the problem of this play. He told that the authorities' of company doesn't allow the employee to tell about their work because the company afraid that another business company knows about the secret of company. If the employee is indicated breaking the rules, the company will sent the messenger to their house, and give them a cake. The employee will be invited to the party. This is a sign that they are not only will got fired but also the death will come closer to them. That's why the husband does not allow his wife to have a baby because he thinks that a baby can disturb his work and makes him commit his work.

Suddenly, after they talked and discussed about the work, their house is visited by the uninvited person. They are surprise because the messenger comes with a clipboard. This is rising action of the play. It is a sign that the husband is the next employee who will get fired and death. The husband tried to deny the messenger by saying that he is the role model of loyal employee; he has working

hard for the company, and always follows the rules. This is the climax of the play. However, how hard he tried to denied, the messenger still writes on the clipboard what kind of cake that the employee like and gives a paper which must be signed by the employee that he had received the cake. It is clearly a sign that the husband will be get fired and he will ends up his life. After the messenger exit, the husband is so panic and thinks hardly who had been told about his work. He was curious to his wife and asks her. His wife explained that a few days ago, she met a woman with no bra and stingy hair from Picnic Company in the grocery and tells her about her husband.

2.2.4 Setting

The play the worker set in a non descriptive apartment in a city and a state is the main set in these play included property such as printing, a fax machine, a paper shredder, several trays of office supplies, and so on. Similar to another plays, setting of this plays is in the United Stated of America in the present time.

2.3 The Profession

2.3.1 Characters

In this play there is a character that plays monologue. The characters consist of:

2.3.1.1 Eugene

Eugene is the main character in this play. Here, he works under pressure from his company and he has planned to change his position with vagrant in order to escape from the pressure. As quoted from dialogue below:

Eugene : It...Must be nice to be a halfwit. A vagrant, I mean. A wanderer. You don't have to contemplate. If you're hungry, you eat. Everything's basic. Primitive. Nothing to confuse the issue. No one to push you around... tell you what to do. Maybe ... maybe I should join you! [Eugene chuckles.

No response from the Vagrant.]

Eugene: Hey ... maybe... maybe I should! They'd never find me then! And if they did ... well, they wouldn't recognize me! I'll bet people don't even give you a second look, do they?! They probably cross the street when they see you coming! That's it! That's the answer! I'll be an outcast! What do you think?

[The Vagrant snorts.]

(Act 1)

The character of Eugene in this Play is categorized as a flat character. He is described as a person who always underestimates by other people and he is also stingy. He feels grateful with all he has. Besides, he also interested in trying something new. It proves that he wants to feel how to become the vagrant.

2.3.1.2 Vagrant

In this play, character vagrant appears in dialogue with Eugene from beginning until the end. In the early of dialogue, vagrant is interested to an orange in hand of Eugene, but he didn't allow touching the orange by Eugene, as quoted from dialogue below:

Eugene: Hey! Don't touch that! That's my orange!

[Eugene wrenches his orange away from the Vagrant.]

Sorry. I'm sorry. I don't mean to be stingy. I'm sure you're very hungry, but I can't allow you to eat this orange. It's just that... well, it's ... yah ... it's the key to everything! I know that doesn't seem to make much sense. I don't understand it quite yet myself. But one has to have faith, you know, that ... well, that everything will come clear in the end.

(Act 1)

In this play, the character Vagrant didn't say any word to Eugene and act like pantomimes and sometimes act like a mad person as a response to the dialogue with Eugene. Similar to another character, this character categorized as flat character in this play.

2.3.2 Theme

The theme in this play is searching the freedom in our life. Everyone has a right to choose what they think the best for their life without any intimidation of

another person. Here, Eugene is trapped in monotonous life and feels that his freedom pent up by his work. He sees that life of vagrant is free and it is inspiring him to search his freedom that has been lost during his work. The freedom in our life can't be replaced by money or other thing. Freedom in this life is a valuable thing in this life. In this play, the freedom of the character is a little bit disturbed by his work because most of his times are wasted just for working in the company without having an opportunity to have fun and make he enjoy for a while.

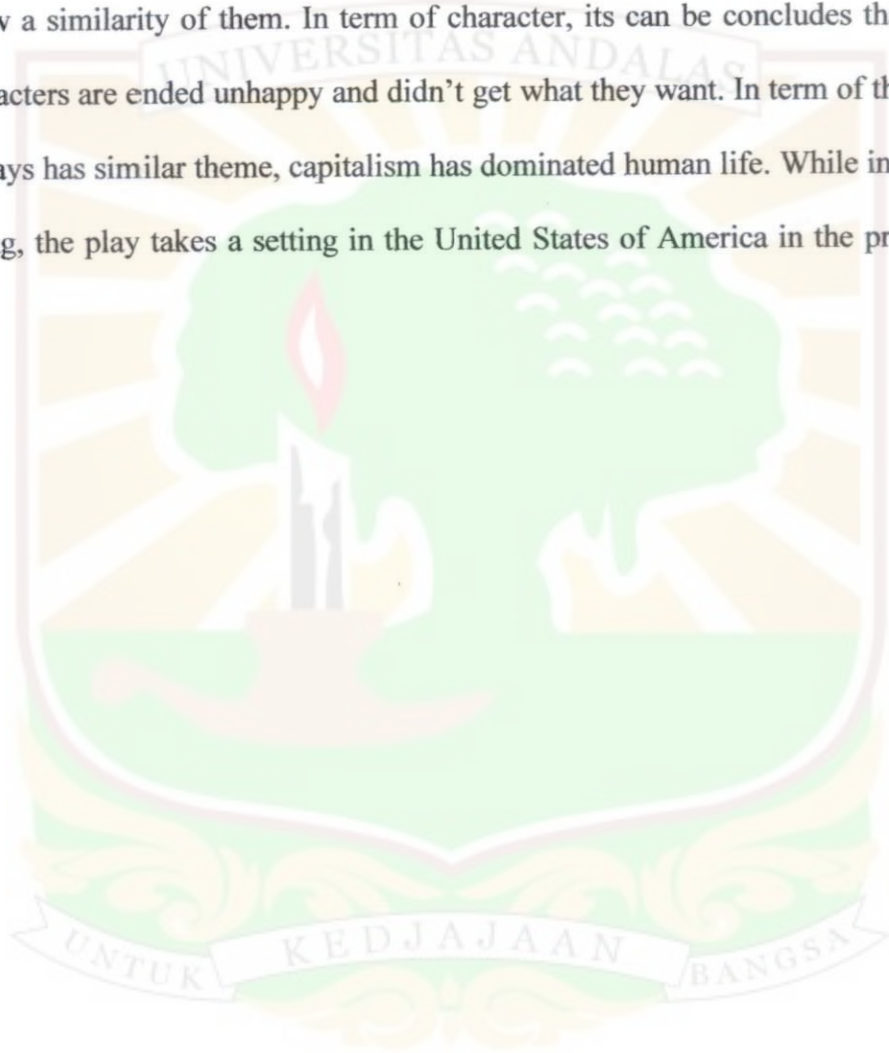
2.3.3 Plot

In the play, the story is begins with dialogue between Eugene and a Vagrant. Yet, the dialogue is dominated by Eugene so it looks like a monologue play. Eugene sees that life of Vagrant is interesting. It seems like no pressure, go with the flown and life as an outcast. It is different from him who must face pressure in work, looking for people, and so on. Than, he has a plan to change his position and tries to be a vagrant in order to escape from the problem. This is complication of the problem in this play. He hopes that vagrant wants to teach him how to be an outcast like anyone else. Then he removes his sock and leather shoes which is expensive, take out his tie, the coat, pants and wear, even he places a smudges, rip his coat and a bit up dirty to recognize that he is a vagrant. This is climax of the plays. In fact the vagrant refuses it. He just wants to have the orange fruit in Eugene hand. Eugene does not want to give it. At the end, the vagrant does a mad dance and Eugene realizes that he is telling a lie and refuses to cooperate with him as resolution of the problem.

2.3.4 Setting

.The play *the profession* has setting in the bench. It may be in the park of city or somewhere the vagrant usually can be found.

From the explanation about the intrinsic element of these plays above, we can draw a similarity of them. In term of character, its can be concludes that all the characters are ended unhappy and didn't get what they want. In term of theme, these plays has similar theme, capitalism has dominated human life. While in term of setting, the play takes a setting in the United States of America in the present age.



CHAPTER III

Socio-Economic Conditions in America in Present Time

United States of America is a country which located in northern of continent America, bordered by Canada to the north and Mexico to the South. This country is a federal constitutional country, with capital district is Washington D.C. and now leads by president Barrack Obama. United States of America, or known as USA has larges influence in politics and economics in the world. According to *enchanted learning/usa/states.com*, this country has 3.79 million square miles (9.83 million km²) and with over 310 million people the United States is the third or fourth largest country by total area, and the third largest both by land area and population. It is one of the world's most ethnically diverse and multicultural nations, the product of large-scale immigration from many countries. The U.S. economy is the world's largest national economy, with an estimated 2010 GDP of \$14.780 trillion (23% of nominal global GDP and 20% of global GDP at purchasing power parity).

Moreover, in present era USA is known as one of larges industrialized country in the world, especially in automotive, entertains, electronics, technology and information, and so on. Based on *usa-guides.com*, according to the International Monetary Fund, the U.S. GDP of \$14.780 trillion constitutes 23% of the gross world product at market exchange rates and over 20% of the gross world product at purchasing power parity (PPP). Though larger than any other nations, its national GDP is about 5% smaller than the GDP of the European Union at PPP

in 2008. The country ranks ninth in the world in nominal GDP per capita and sixth in GDP per capita at PPP. The U.S. dollar is the world's primary reserve currency. The United States is the largest importer of goods and third largest exporter, though exports per capita are relatively low. In 2008, the total U.S. trade deficit was \$696 billion. In August 2010, the American labor force comprised 154.1 million people. With 21.2 million people, government is the leading field of employment. The largest private employment sector is health care and social assistance, with 16.4 million people. About 12% of workers are unionized, compared to 30% in Western Europe. The World Bank ranks the United States first in the ease of hiring and firing workers. In 2009, the United States had the third highest labor productivity per person in the world, behind Luxembourg and Norway. It was fourth in productivity per hour, behind those two countries and the Netherlands. Compared to Europe, U.S. property and corporate income tax rates are generally higher, while labor and, particularly, consumption tax rates are lower.

CHAPTER IV

The Impacts of Capitalism as Reflected in Three Plays by Walter Wykes *Family 2.0.*, *the Worker*, and *the Profession*

In this chapter, the writer analyzes the impact of capitalism that are implied in Three Plays by Walter Wykes *Family 2.0.*, *the Worker*, and *the Profession*. The writer found that impact is usually found in our daily life. As explained before that these plays indicated about the challenge toward the capitalism which will be analyzed in this chapter. This chapter is divided into several subchapters.

3.1. Individualism

Individualism stands from word “individual” means “single; separate” (Oxford, 635). Generally, individualism can be defined as a feeling or behavior of a person who likes to do things his/her own way, regardless of what other people do. In these plays, individualism is indicated as one of the issues of capitalism. The Issues of Individualism is one of a way of Walter Wykes to tries challenge and reveal as the impact of capitalism.

The writer argues that Walter Wykes implied that the capitalism has lead people to individualism society. The social system is trapped into an individual system, where people just go to work from the morning until afternoon, they get busy to work and finding money and earn benefit for big company. They tend to prior themselves without considering the society around them such as their wife, children and other people who also need their attention, time, affection, and loves.

Furthermore, for the people who unconsciously have been trapped in the individualism, it also gives impact for themselves. They will be led into alienation of life because they feel like strangers and being from another world.

In their mind, they are aware that they have family, wife, friend and child. But in reality, all they have seems gone and they look like living life alone and separate from society. They seem have no one to share ideas and problems in life. This is a kind of socioeconomic condition in this era, especially where technology, information and also gadget are quickly developed. The social status and honorable in society are depended on the number of technology and gadget they have. In fact it can be achieved if those people have a large bunch of money.

In these plays, we can see that Walter Wykes conducted the individualism through the character of first husband in plays *Family 2.0* and the character of man in the plays *the worker*. On the play *Family 2, 0*, the opening act state with interaction between husband and wife about her first husband work, as quoted in dialogue below:

Wife: But ... I already have a husband.

Husband: He can have my life. Where does he work?

Wife: He's an executive. At a technology company.

Husband: Perfect! I love technology! All those little gadgets and stuff! It'll be great!

(Act 1)

It dialogue shows that the first husband works at Technology Company; he has wife and children, has big and perfect looking house. He actually can be

considered as high social status in society. It is a guarantee that he will achieve a perfect and happy life even without anybody else. On contrary, in the play *Family 2.0*, it is opposite the expectation of the reader and spectator. He is being ignored and rejected by his wife and his children. He is astonished that another man has replaced his position in that family. It is caused by his individualist thought in his mind.

The character of first husband in this play is considered as individualism as the impact of capitalism. Since he is busy with his work in the office, focus on his life for work and sacrifice his time, and affection for his family, wife and children. Hence, he trapped in individualism condition, where he knows that he has family, yet he seems like alone and trapped in alienation situation. He seems never existed and accepted in his family whereas he should be a leader in the family.

The writer argues that this situation is caused by the system in his company which forces him to work. The first husband can't give any attention to the family and people around him, such as, affection, time, and so on. As prove, he forgets about when the last time he brings flower to his wife to show love as reflected in the dialogue below:

Wife: He's replacing you.

First husband: Replacing me?

Wife: That's right. He's in—you're out.

First husband: But why?!

Wife: He brought me flowers! When's the last time you brought me flowers?!

First husband: I—

Wife: Exactly. Now stop shuttering and hand over the key.

(Act 1)

This can be inferred that through this character, Walter Wykes seems to challenge the capitalism in socioeconomic condition in this era. Moreover, the character of first husband in play *Family 2.0* is supported by the setting which is depicted as an absurd condition. When he enters his home, he sees his wife has an affair with another man. He is also treated like a dog and slave by his children and wife. It is very absurd, unclear and unreasonable. By treating like a dog, sometimes we feel so sympathy and apprehensive to condition of the character of first husband. Moreover, we even laugh about this character because the dialogue is performed in comedy yet Walter Wykes actually used metaphor to emphasize the absurdity of the condition.

Similar to the first play, it also happens to the man character in the plays *the Worker*. The man character in this play is also categorized as the individualist person since he work everyday. He is described as a loyal employee of the company who give his full attention to his work. Even he must do overtime-work and brings his work into his house to finish it. As quoted from narration dialogue below:

....in the middle of the room which includes a fax machine, two printers, a garbage can, a paper shredder, several trays of office

supplies, a filing cabinet, an entire desk—perhaps even a whole cubicle, complete with wall-dividers, potted plants, and a fish tank. Finally, he closes the door behind him.]

Man: [His usual greeting.] I'm home.

[He loosens his tie and waits for a response, but none is forthcoming. He hesitates.]

Man: I'm ... I'm home.

(Act 1)

These narration dialogues infer that the man character has been trapped in individualism condition. When people are going home, sharing their affection with family, forgetting the burden in the office and company. Nevertheless, it is different with the man character in this play. He even brings his work. The indications of individualism of man character in this play become stronger when he forbids his wife to have baby. As quoted in the dialogue below;

Man: There will be no children in this house!

Woman: It's not—

Man: No talk of children! No representations of children! No dolls, no drawings, no finger puppets!

Woman: But it's only—

Man: I don't care! Get rid of it!

[He throws the doll at her.] (Act 1)

It shows that man character has been trapped in individualism condition. He just thinks about his work in the office, he didn't realize that his wife needed him. His wife also needs a friend in house to chase away his loneliness while her husband is working in the office. He is only thinking about work without considering his wife who also needed him. His role as husband is not only to provide money, but also as a leader of the family who also has to give affection, comfortable and love for his wife. Besides, in office he works by himself without anyone help, as quote from dialogue below:

Woman: You've been promoted to management?!

Man: No, it's just me—there's no one to manage! I do everything!
The whole department!

Woman: The whole department? By yourself?

Man: That's not all! I'm also expected to take incoming calls because there's no receptionist, fix the computers because there's no tech department, field customer complaints because there's no customer service! I'm in charge of the mail room, the cafeteria, janitorial services, research and development! Last week, human resources was let go, the whole department, and I received a memo—which I'd actually typed myself because there's no secretary—instructing me to familiarize myself with all applicable state and federal guidelines! Tomorrow, I'm supposed to start mediating all employee disputes! I have no idea what I'm doing! I'd ask the legal department for advice, but I've never studied law so I

wouldn't know what to tell myself! And to top it all off, I have to take the CEO's dog out to poop four times a day! At regular intervals! He has stomach problems and he's on a very strict schedule!

Woman: Well, you'll just have to tell them it's too much.

(Act 1)

From the quotation above, we can infer that this character is getting more trapped in individualism condition. There are a lot of works to do and finish. But he doesn't have much time to finish and manage it. As the result, he must sacrifice his time with his family.

From both of character, we can see the similarities, that both of this character are considered as a person who has money but he didn't have much time to gathered with their own beloved people especially their family. A person is regarded to have a happy life not only a large bunch of money, but also time to share with their beloved ones, such as their family, friends, and children and so on. Moreover, it is an effective way to criticize capitalist that directly or indirectly leads human life into an absurd condition in life. It is because thought of the society lead and force to work, to search benefit, and sacrifice another importance and roles. One of the results of this condition is individualism as represented by the both character. This is a kind of satire and critique of Walter Wykes toward Capitalism where individualism became an impact of the capitalism practices which had been created. We can see that both characters are trapped in

‘individualism’ attitude and it is directly or indirectly has impact on their own family which closely related with them.

3.2. Materialism

Generally, the relations of society and materiality cannot be separated. The interest of society toward material is influenced by social economic condition and how that person viewed a thing. In another word, the way people thought is based on economic structure and social condition. This is called Materialism. According to Oxford, “Materialism means obsession with material possessions or can be state as a theory or belief that only material things exist” (768). Materialism is one of issues in these plays. Here, Walter Wykes tries to conduct it through several characters, where its character represented as absurd term.

The indication of Materialism can be seen in the character Son and daughter in play *Family 2.0* and character Man in play *the worker*. As stated before that the character Son likes to watch and play baseball. He accepted the character husband as his new Father because he promises him to watch and play Baseball, in fact he rejected and not recognize his own father because he never takes him to watch baseball. In the writer thought, it might see an ironic twist to our impressions of these two husbands. The character husband is often associated to the perfect man who can bring him to watch baseball because he has a lot of money and that can be used to buy ticket and take him to watch a baseball match. The writer thinks and curious that the character of Son is indicated that he is a kind of materialist person.

He loves his new father because he can take him to watch baseball. This initial contrast makes us think that his cultural life as a teenager in America who likes to play and watch base ball is consider to be an important part to legalize his existences. It is a proud if he is able to go to a baseball match, thus he can show up to his friend, not all people can watch baseball. Yet, his new father cannot afford what he want, and prefer to “have a business” with his mother, he soon thrown away his new father. As quoted from dialogue below:

Son: All I wanted to do was go to the Big Game! But now it's too late! I already told all of my friends we were going, and they're all going too, and now they're going to see that I'm not really there and they're going to know what losers we are! I'll bet you didn't even buy tickets—did you?! Liar! My other Dad would have taken me! I should have gone with him! I'm never going to believe another word you say! You're a big fat ugly liar!

(Act 1)

Another indication of materialism also found in the character of daughter in the play *Family 2.0*. As stated before that she likes to goes to shopping. Based on the dialogue, she accepted her new father because he gives her a lot of money to spend and buy what she wants. Similar to her brother, we might see that the impression of her new father is a perfect man, where he can give her a lot of money for shopping, and accompanied her to buy everything that she want. The writer thinks that the character daughter indicated that she is kind of materialist person.

She can accept her new father because he can give her a lot of money for shopping. This initial contrast indicates that shopping in American teenager is considered as one parameter for their status in society or in their community. Teenagers like to race and compete to buy new brand, new clothing, new gadgets, and so on. Yet, when her new father didn't want to accompany her goes to shopping, she kicks and throws out her new father. She forth out taboo word as a kind of her disappointed, as quote from dialogue below:

Daughter: Am I invisible? Am I not even here? What do I have to do to get some attention in this house?! Do I have to shoot somebody? Do I have to blow something up? Maybe I should get pregnant! I should find the first boy who wants to fuck me and just pull up my skirt! There are plenty of boys at school who'd like to fuck me! Maybe they already have! Maybe I just haven't told you! Or maybe I have but you

(Act 1)

Another indication of materialism can be seen in the Man character in play *the Worker*. It can be seen from dialogue below:

Man: There was a reason I wouldn't allow you to have this child!

Woman: Because you're selfish and only think of yourself!

Man: No, because suddenly you expect me to take sick days and buy diapers and leave early to see it perform in school plays!

You'll start calling me during work hours to tell me it's crawling or

talking or taking its first poop! Word starts spreading that I'm not committed to my job anymore, and next thing you know, I end up like the others!

Woman: What others? The ones who were fired

Man: Yes! No! I told you, they weren't fired!

(Act 1)

This dialogue makes us think that this character is only thinking about his job, if he loses his job it means he will lose his money. This dialogue makes the writer think that he ignores his wife wish to have a baby. He thinks that it will disturb his job, influence his career and he will lose his money. It makes the writer think that the Man character is considered as a materialistic man. He forgets that the existence of a child or baby in a family will give happiness to the family; happiness is not only about the material and stuff but also about love and cares. The existences of children in family is another factor that support a family to reach happiness, except if that couple has been tried as long as they can, but god haven't give it.

Both of the characters above show that they are measure valued and defined something based on how much someone has material, gadget and stuff in life. They pretend to think about money and everything related to material. In the character Son and Daughter in play *Family 2.0*, they accepted their new father because he has a lot of money which can fulfill their desired to watch play baseball and goes to shopping. While in the Man character in play *The Worker*, ignores the present of baby which indicated his materialistic side because he fears

to be disturbed by his baby who will affect his job, but we know that the present of a baby or child in a family will give happiness for the family itself. We can see that the material influences pattern society measures people around them.

3.3. Monotonous Life and Boring Routine

Based on Oxford dictionary, “monotonous mean have no changing and therefore uninteresting; boring or tedious” (802). Monotonous life can be understood as a condition where the people feel bored in life. Everybody may feel bored, especially in working time. Everyone may face monotonous and boring condition working, studying, and so on. Moreover, the degree of stress and pressure in monotonous life is different from a person with another.

The monotonous life and boring routine are one of the issues in this play. Here, Walter Wykes tries to conduct it through Wife character in the play *Family 2.0*, Woman character in play *the worker* and Eugene in *the profession*. The wife character in the plays *Family 2.0*, who accepted another man in her family to replace her hate husband in plays *Family 2.0*, is caused by monotonous life. Everyday she must stay at home with her two children and face the same routine and situation without refreshing her life. It makes her feel boring. It can be seen into dialogue below: ...“ Wife: Look, I’m ... I’m sorry your life is so boring. My life is boring too. But you can’t just walk in here and expect us to— (Act 1)

The opening dialogue above makes us think about her daily routine life. She is enduring monotonous life and boring routine. There is no productive

activity in her life and facing similar situation and condition at home. She faces and sees the same thing every day in her life. That's why when a man is entering her house, bringing a new condition, suddenly she claimed the man as her new husband who replacing her late husband. Besides, the setting of this plays which only just in the home that gives initial clues; the wife character had been trapped in monotonous and boring life.

This issue also comes in the woman character in plays *the worker*. Similar to the character wife in plays *Family 2.0*, the writer also thinks that she is also trapped in monotonous and boring routine. Every day, she just stayed at home accompanied by a doll, she is treating that doll as her baby, her routine activity only surrounded by similar activities, waiting her husband coming back from work and cook for dinner. But her husband didn't allow her to have baby to accompany her at house. as quoted from dialogue below:

Man: How many times have I told you?!

Woman: You didn't say—

Man: There will be no children in this house!

Woman: It's not—

Man: No talk of children! No representations of children! No dolls, no drawings, no finger puppets!

Woman: But it's only—

Man: I don't care! Get rid of it!

[He throws the doll at her.]

(Act 1)

Moreover, this impact can also be seen from the Eugene character in play *the profession*. The writer thinks that his dialogue with Vagrant showed his frustration. This character thinks that being a vagrant is a solution for his problem. It can be seen from dialogue below:

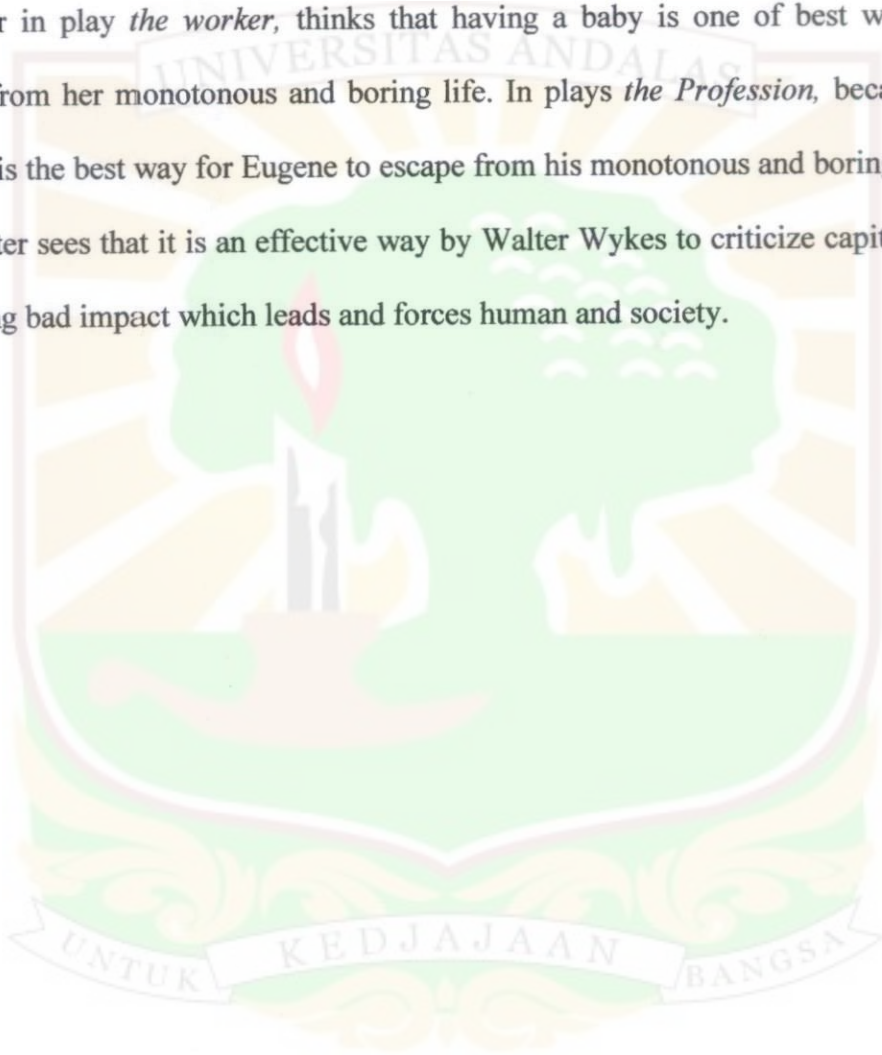
Eugene: It ... must be nice to be a halfwit. A vagrant, I mean. A wanderer. You don't have to contemplate. If you're hungry, you eat. Everything's basic. Primitive. Nothing to confuse the issue. No one to push you around ... tell you what to do. Maybe... maybe I should join you! [Eugene chuckles. No response from the Vagrant.] Hey ... maybe ... maybe I should!! They'd never find me then! And if they did ... well, they wouldn't recognize me! I'll bet people don't even give you a second look, do they?! They probably cross the street when they see you coming! That's it! That's the answer! I'll be an outcast! What do you think?

[The Vagrant snorts.]

(Act 1)

From third character, we can get similarities of both characters that had been trapped in monotonous and boring life. We can see that it caused that their time is wasted in similar way without producing positive influence. They must face the similar routine activities without refreshing their mind and facing monotonous condition in their life even though they are rich people. The point is that they didn't get the real meaning of happiness in life. They are just waiting and working at the same place and get no chance to develop their potential.

Then, each characters have another similarities in finding their own way to escape from their own monotonous routine and life with strength way. For wife character in play *Family 2.0*, she thinks that when she accept another man as her husband as quoted in the play, it would be a way to escape, while woman character in play *the worker*, thinks that having a baby is one of best way to escape from her monotonous and boring life. In plays *the Profession*, became a vagrant is the best way for Eugene to escape from his monotonous and boring life. The writer sees that it is an effective way by Walter Wykes to criticize capitalism that bring bad impact which leads and forces human and society.



CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

Marxist theory is a theory that purpose by Karl Marx. Marxist theory discuss about Ideological system, social classes, capitalism, base and superstructure economic and others especially in literary work. Moreover, in this theory also explained that Marxist literary criticism used to see how socioeconomic condition in society influences a literary works that develops in the society itself. Refer to literary work itself about capitalism contain perspective Marxism; in generally it divided into two main ideas, it is literary work which may tend to reinforce in the reader the ideologies it embodies, or it might invite the reader to criticize the ideologies it embodies and one of these kinds, whether it is supporter or challenger of capitalism are always applied in literary work, whether in short story, novel, or plays.

Walter Wykes in his plays *Family 2.0*, *The Worker and the Profession* is one of literary work which applies literary work that might invite the reader to criticize the ideologies it embodies. In this plays, there are several impact that find in the plays. First, the impact of individualism can be seen into character first husband in play *Family 2.0* and Man character in the play *the Worker*. Both of these characters considers as an individualist person because even though they have a large bunch of money and family, but they didn't have much time to gathered with their own beloved family and get happiness in their life. Most of

their time waste only for their work and company. And this is one impact of capitalism that reflected in the play by Walter Wykes.

Second, impact of materialism can be seen into character son and daughter in the play *Family 2.0* and man character in the play *the Worker*. Both of these characters consider as materialist person because they are measure and valued based on how much someone has material and gadget in their life. Material is everything in life. A person will be valuable if they have a bunch of money, material, stuff and gadget in life.

Third, impact of monotonous life and boring routine conducting into wife character in the *Family 2.0* woman character in play *the Worker* and character of Eugene in the play *the Profession*. Both of these characters consider as monotonous life and boring routine because they have trapped in similar routine activities and much of their time waste in monotonous condition. They just working and activities in the same place without get no chance to develop their potential; they face similar routine without refreshing their mind.

From explanations above, the writer suggest to another researcher to do more research about Walter Wykes plays in the future. Because plays by Walter Wykes have qualities contain good criticism idea to society. Through his literary work, we can learn not only about capitalism, but also criticize another important aspect in the life. And also, the writer aware that this research is far away from perfect, whether in form, written and idea, and so on. Hope in the future, there are more researchers who want to explore depth and research about Walter Wykes plays.

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